



# Encapsulated Earthworm Cocoons

Improve the structure and fertility of the soil in your lawn or garden nature's way—by hatching or “planting” our specially selected encapsulated earthworm cocoons.

## Indoor Hatching Instructions

Earthworm cocoons should be refrigerated until you are ready to hatch them. However, the sooner you start the hatching process, the greater the hatching rate will be.

1. Place the encapsulated earthworm cocoons into a cup of water and let soak until the encapsulation material dissolves. **(Please note: Never use water from a water softening system, as the salt can kill the worms.)**
2. Once the encapsulation material has dissolved, empty the water and the cocoons into a kitchen strainer and gently rinse any remaining encapsulation material off the cocoons.
3. Spread out the washed cocoons onto a wet paper towel, then fold the paper towel in half and gently roll it up and place it in a sealable plastic bag. Store it in a dark, cool location.
4. Initially check on the cocoons 48 hours after placing them in the sealable bag to see if any have started to hatch. After that, check on them every 24 hours.
5. Once you see newly hatched worms, take the rolled-up paper towel out of the bag, **but do not unroll the paper towel.** Bury the paper towel and cocoons a couple of inches below the soil's surface in your lawn or garden.

Most of your encapsulated earthworm cocoons will hatch. Some of your earthworms may hatch from their cocoons in a few days, but the eggs are in a state of diapause and some may continue to hatch months later. This is nature's way of ensuring their survival.

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## Delayed Release Option

If you prefer to wait a little longer to “release” newly hatched worms, follow these steps:

1. Follow steps 1-4 from the Indoor Hatching Instructions. As soon as the worms hatch, place the babies onto a wet paper towel.
2. Fill a small container with moist soil from your garden or lawn. (A clear container allows for viewing the earthworms.)
3. Place the wet paper towel with the newly hatched worms upside down on the soil in the container.
4. Add approximately ½” of additional moist--but not soaked--soil on top of the paper towel. Cover the container with a vented “escape-proof” lid.
5. Feed the newly hatched earthworms crushed cereal. Food should be spread evenly on top of the soil and an additional wet paper towel should be placed on top of the food. **(Please note: the wet paper towel that tops the food should be kept moist.)**
6. Your earthworms will be fully grown after 2-3 months. Once you've had a chance to enjoy observing your earthworms for a few days, it's best to release them into your garden, lawn or outdoor compost pile.

## Outdoor Planting Instructions

No need to handle live earthworms. You can plant earthworm cocoons right into your lawn or garden soil—just like you would any ordinary seed. If you cannot “plant” your earthworm cocoons right away, keep them in the refrigerator until you are ready to plant them; however, viability diminishes with time.

## Outdoor Planting Recommendations

Minimum planting recommendations are one cocoon per square foot; however, this is just a suggestion. Your soil can easily support 15-20 worms per square foot. Therefore, the more cocoons planted per square foot, the better the results. Hatching rates will vary in your lawn or garden.

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50 Count

#8815

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